

2015 Résumé

Ozzy gets published - [Details >>](#)

Ozzy, the Golden Labrador, gets to grips with Tony the Lion

Jumble - [Details>>](#)

Every February Clifton Community Centre is the venue for our Grand Charity Jumble Sale

Young Leaders in Service - [Details >>](#)

Amy Williams and Holly Brown receive their awards

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Another highly successful Race Night

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The year so far

Easter - [Details >>](#)

Find out who won our Easter Eggs this year....

Wicksteed - [Details >>](#)

On Saturday, June 14th we took a party to Wicksteed Park and a Lancaster bomber flew by to check on us.

Fêtes and Carnivals - [Details >>](#)

Fine weather sometimes and the introduction of our Chicken in the Basket game

Diary Update - [Details>>](#)

May to August

Our 37th Charter- [Details >>](#)

37 years on from our Club's Formation Charter we celebrate at the Barns Hotel Bedford

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September to October

Ken Campaigns for the Hard of Hearing - [Details>>](#)

Ken Lynch and his Hearing Loops

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November into December

The District Youth Celebration - [Details >>](#)

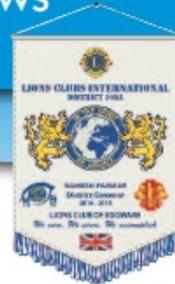
Our Christmas Calendar - [Details>>](#)





PRIDE OF LIONS

District 105A News
DG Ramesh Parmar



Issue 8 • February 2015

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4 Legs and a Tale

Hello Lions... my name is Ozzy and I am a 2 year old Golden Labrador. I met my partner Tony, through Canine Partners, a registered charity started in 1990. The charity's aim is to train dogs like me to help injured servicemen and women, veterans and civilians. Did you know that in our country over 1.2 million people use a wheelchair and a significant number of them would benefit from a canine partner? Currently there is an ever increasing demand. At any one time there are 120 puppies in training and Canine Partners has placed 70 dogs so far in 2014.

We dogs are carefully assessed to make sure we are suitable for our work and that we match the needs of our partner and lifestyle whatever they may be. We give more independence and greater confidence to our partner. Before we arrive on the case many disabled people are reluctant to go out on their own.

Not only are we carefully checked, but so are our prospective human partners. The recipient visit Canine Partners for the day. As well as chatting about why they need a dog, a dog is brought out to see how they react to each other and some basic tasks such as feeding and grooming are gone through. Then comes a 2 week residential course, which is where I met Tony. This covers lots of different tasks we do together, including, for example, negotiating doors, wheelchair positions, picking up dropped items, feeding me and me getting my bowl from a stand. Also Tony got to choose a task for me to learn, which was taking off his shoes which I learnt very quickly. I got my bronze certificate but it doesn't stop there. I'm now working towards my silver award by learning new things - I'm now training to give Tony his phone and bring him his shoes. Our trainer now comes once a month, but if there is a problem



will come more often, so we have that back-up and support. Tony and I are best friends - I listen and watch him and follow wherever he goes.

To fully train a dog and its partner costs £20,000, but Canine Partners receives no government funding and relies solely on public donations and gifts in wills. For more information visit www.caninepartners.org.uk or call **0845 580 480**.

P.S. Tony is a much valued member of Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club.

Lion Steve Foott, on behalf of Ozzy

NOTICE BOARD

District 105 A Convention 6 - 8 March 2015. Have you booked your place at the Convention? Contact PDG Lion Ken Rouse for details.

Senior Citizens Celebrations at Harrow Leisure Centre on **22 Feb 2015**. Time is running short. Book your tables NOW. Contact PDG Lion Parveen Verma for more information.

Street Children Day: 12 April 2015. To mark this day, please raise awareness by organising fund raising activities. Contact Lion Joginder Gill for further help and information.



LCI Ethic:

To Coordinate the activities and standardize the administration of Lions clubs.

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Meetings held on 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8:00pm
The Biggleswade Sea Cadets Unit, 4 Station Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8AL
Visitors most welcome



Another Successful Jumble Sale

For a number of years Biggleswade Sandy Lions have been holding a Jumble Sale at the Clifton Community Centre in late February. Word gets around about the high quality of goods for sale and by the time the doors open on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 we find there's quite a queue waiting to grab the bargains.



This year was no different. The Jumble Sale was to be held on Saturday 28th February. Back in January we started collecting the jumble, sorting through it and storing it in our garages and conservatories. Those poor souls that were storing all this treasure were extremely relieved when the morning of the 28th arrived and the Club Members and friends arrived to transport everything to the Community Centre and their homes could once again return to normality.

Meanwhile over in the Community Hall other Lions and friends were busy setting up the tables to receive and display everything that was to be sold and by 12:30 pm the hall was ready; time for a quick lunch and to be in place to greet everyone when the doors were unlocked.

With over 100 hundred people attending, sales were brisk and after a couple of hours we were left with the task of clearing out the left overs and making the hall appear as though we'd never been there.

In 2014 we made around £550 profit, which went into our Charitable funds, early indications are that 2015 will record a similar profit.

We'd like to thank everyone who helped us prepare for and run this year's Jumble Sale; those who donated items to sell and those who turned up on the day to buy the bargains on sale.

Get Ready, Get Set, Go....



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Two more Young Leaders in Service recognised



18th March 2015

Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club are proud to announce that two of our local young people have achieved Lions Young Leaders in Service Silver Awards.

The award is designed to encourage young people to serve in their community; they were required to complete 50 or more hours of community service in a 12 month period. The local Lions Young Leaders in Service recipients are:

Amy Williams

Holly Brown

The awards were presented by Cllr Caroline Maudlin, Chairman of Central Bedfordshire Council, at our meeting this evening. Each recipient received a letter and certificate signed by our International President Joe Preston, Lions Clubs International. Amy and Holly elected to do work in the gardens of Shortmead House and also visit elderly people with dementia whilst qualifying for the award.

Another Great Night at the Races

But no photo-finish!

We did it before:

- Joined forces with Clifton Football Club
- Held a Race Night at Clifton Community Centre
- Had a thoroughly good evening
- Made a handsome profit on the evening to be shared between Clifton FC and Biggleswade Sandy Lions Charity account.

Only this time no one told the photographer to check that he had a film in his camera! So please accept our apologies for the Race Card and race horse silhouettes on this page.



On Friday evening, 20th March 2015, after what seemed like months of planning, the doors opened on the second Biggleswade Sandy Lions and Clifton Football Club joint venture Race Night.

Jason had organised the Football Club to sell most of the tickets; Race Sponsors had been persuaded to support us; Biggleswade Sandy Lions had set up a bar, and a ploughman's supper was ready for serving at half time; Richie Douse was ready to lead into the first race of the evening. Suddenly 100 people turned up.

After that it's a bit of a blur; everyone enjoyed themselves; the evening passed very quickly. Unlike last time there were no photographs to remind us that the odd race-goer had fallen asleep. Then it was time for clearing up.

Next day, we had to wait for the Six Nations Rugby to finish before the beans were counted, which established that we had made £1500 profit on the evening; shared equally between Clifton Football Club and Biggleswade Sandy Lions Charity Account.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this evenings success.

We would like to thank our Race Sponsors:

Adept Fabrications Ltd

Ambitions Unisex Hairdressing

Bedfordshire Growers

Bennett Mechanical Services

eRDS Solutions & Services Ltd

Morrisons Supermarkets

Spectra Carpets Ltd



Easter Already !

Club Diary

This year the winter didn't seem so bad, in January we recovered from our hectic December activities and planned the year ahead.

By Mid February we had 17 large Easter Eggs placed around our area for the Easter Egg Draw

21st February we took our PR stall to Ken Lynch's Volunteers Fair at Sandy Village Hall

28th February our annual Jumble Sale was once again well attended.

7th March we collected for Marie Curie in Sandy Market Place, and some of us attended the Lions District Convention, where we won the District Website Competition for our website.

18th March the Chairman of Central Bedfordshire Council, Cllr Caroline Maudlin attended our meeting and presented Amy Williams and Holly Brown with Young Leaders in Service Awards.

20th March we joined forces with Clifton Football Club for the second time to run a most successful Race Night... Sorry there are no photos.

23rd March Ken Lynch Display at Biggleswade Library for Cavell Nurses and Lions Hearing Initiative



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Visitors most welcome



Don't eat it all at once

Thank you very much to everyone who took on the responsibility of selling an egg for us, and all of you who bought a number on the off chance that they might win an egg. Thank you once again and better luck next year.

This year's winners are:-

Biggleswade

New Inn	Pat Campbell
Saxon Centre	Stuart Gunstone
Conservative Club	Dot Cooper
Stratton School Staff Room	Elaine Smith

Clifton

Golden Lion	R.I.L.
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Henlow

Engineers Arms	Leigh Basquill
Five Bells	Charlotte Payne
RAF Henlow	Siu Albort

Moggerhanger

The Guinea	Kerri
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Sandy

Queen's Head	Aaron Dinsdale / Evie Mugridge
Kings Arms	Roz
Sir William Peel	Father John
The Bell	Mrs Gale
Roundabout Club	Mick Hampton
Keech Hospice Shop	Linda Robinson

Tempsford

Wheatsheaf	Sophie McArthur
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Charlotte Payne
Winner of our egg at the Five Bells in Henlow.



Wicksteed Park Outing

5th June 2015

One of the major concerns for this long standing annual event is the weather. Everything else is planned in fine detail, but weather is totally out of our control. However, this Saturday morning we woke to sunshine with only a slight risk of light showers later in the day. So we were all looking forward to the day.

Lions Ian, Jane & Keith were at the first pick up point in Biggleswade by 9.15am to greet the first guests, see them onto the coach, measuring children's height before boarding (as there's a minimum height of a metre for some of the rides). Then on to Sandy to pick up the rest, where a lot of very excited children greeted the first sight of the coach. Then off to Wicksteed.

Whilst on route we phoned ahead to our advance party, Lions Judith, Julie & David, for them to purchase sufficient ride passes for our guests so that no time was lost on our arrival.

When we were nearly at the entrance to the park an excited medley of sounds erupted from the children on board, already planning which of the rides they could see from the coach they would try first!!

On arrival each was given their ride passes by our advance party, told to be back at the coach for lunch at 12.30, then off they charged with parents in tow to enjoy the morning. Ahead of those of us on the main coach was our mini bus of children from Ivel Valley School, they were already in the park enjoying themselves. The Lions had time for a quick cup of coffee before getting the tables set up near the coach, to provide a bit of shelter from the wind, which was keeping any threat of rain away, the sun continued to shine on us! Then the food & drinks were set out in readiness.

The first soon arrived for lunch, with many collecting it & racing straight back into the ride areas so as not to waste any time while they ate!! Others came back & sat down on the grass to eat, excitedly telling us about all the rides they had been on & which were their favourites. For one of the little girls it was a very special outing as it was her fifth birthday. She was thrilled when Lion Judith took her by the hand & got us all to sing Happy Birthday.

Then it was back to the rides for all, including the Lions after they had put everything away, although they restricted their rides to the train & log flume!

All had been asked to return to the coach by 4.30 & some very tired but happy children duly did so. All told us that they had really enjoyed the day & hoped they could come again. On the coach Lion Jane looked after some half a dozen of the children so that parents could have a rest or chat amongst themselves. The youngest were soon asleep but the others continued excitedly discussing their day.

For us Lions we all agreed that it had been an outstanding trip this year, perhaps because the weather had been so kind. The children, parents/guardians/carers also agreed from what each said as they got off the coach to go home.



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Visitors most welcome



Fêtes and Carnivals 1

Ickwell - Monday 4th May

Well the sky was blue, we started assembling our stalls and games just after 8:00 am and by 10:00 we were ready for business... offering books, jigsaws, bric-a-brac, and a lucky dip. The more energetic could have a go at skittles or golf and the little ones could catch ducks floating in our improvised pond.

By 11:00 am people started to arrive in numbers to test their skills at golf and skittles and browse the books and bric-a-brac, around 1:00 pm the May Queen Procession took place whilst we continued our business as usual. By the end of the afternoon it was apparent that we'd had a very good day as we packed up and prepared to suffer the consequences of a day spent replacing skittles and collecting golf balls.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by and joined us in the spring sunshine.

Sandy Carnival - 13th June

This was a wet and miserable day, splat the rat slowed down when the rats' rice stuffing swelled and they no longer shot down the tube at death defying speed; but we Brits are accustomed to wet days in June and the mug tombola and lucky dips went down well with the crowd. We're looking forward to a fine day at next year's Sandy Carnival... fingers crossed.

Bedfordshire Growers Family Day - 13th /14th June

Saturday was a very slow day, not helped by the weather and competing Fêtes in the area. We introduced our Chicken in the Basket Challenge which was very well received; generally by an initial "What was that?" and several people came back for another go. We were much encouraged and where Fêtes can afford the space we'll be back with the flying chickens.

Meppershall Summer Fair - 27th June

A busy hot sunny summer's afternoon with a fly past by the Battle of Britain memorial Flight Hawker Hurricane. Down on the ground we were kept busy with our golf and skittles games, lucky dip, books and jigsaw stall.





Fêtes and Carnivals 2

Arlesey - 11th July

The day started slowly, but was warm with sunny intervals a dramatic change from previous years when rain fell most of the afternoon. The local Scouts laid on bacon butties for the stall holders, which were much enjoyed, as shown in the first photo. The official opening took place at 12 but it was not until about 1.30 that people began to arrive in numbers. Then our ever popular skittles & golf games kept us busy together with our new "Test Your Steadiness" game, we had one winner on this. Virtually every stall had a Lucky Dip so we didn't sell out this time, but those 69 who did all commented on the high quality of our gift! Thank you to everyone who supported or helped run our stall.



Letchworth Lions Fun Day - 18th July

Saturday was good day, especially for the Australians at Lords Cricket Ground. In Letchworth the weather was good and we had a steady stream of customers at our stall throughout the day. We sold out of mugs in the Mug Tombola, all the Lucky Dips and a substantial number of our books on the book stall. Four customers proved to be sufficiently steady to win on Tony's new wire game. Many thanks to everyone that participated.



Old Warden Village Fête - 30th August

The weather didn't promise to be good, but it stayed dry whilst we set up stall. At 1:45pm the rain started with 15 minutes to go to the start. This didn't stop the stalwart residents of Old Warden attending, after all this was their Village Fête and this is an English Summer. We had our busy spells on the Chicken in a Basket game; many scientific theories were tested resulting in some very near misses of the basket. Meanwhile a couple of young ladies with fantastic face painted butterfly masks discovered the treasures in our Lucky Dip and came back several times. Overall, we got very wet, but considered the afternoon a great success.



Upper Caldecote Village Show - 6th September

It was a glorious sunny day with our flying chickens trying to emulate the competition from the Shuttleworth Vintage Air Pageant. We had a splendid afternoon with our Chicken in the Basket, Mug Tombola, Lucky Dips and Book stall. The show was well attended and every body, both young and old seemed to be enjoying themselves. This was a fine way to end our Summer Fête season.



Thank you to everyone who called in at our stall throughout the summer. We hope to meet again next year.



Biggleswade Sandy Lions 2015

Ordinary People Doing Amazing Things



Tea for the Elderly & Chicken in the Basket for us

Club Diary

6th May - We donated £1,000 to the LCIF Nepal Earthquake Appeal - This will be administered on site by the Lions Clubs of Nepal

17th May Outing to Shannon Express Concert rehearsal for 9 elderly people from Northfields, Biggleswade followed by country drive and afternoon tea.

3rd June - Charter member Lion Jim Dickson receives a Melvin Jones Fellowship award to mark a lifetime achievement in service to our community.

6th June - Another successful day at Wicksteed

13th June - A wet but successful day at Sandy Carnival and a quiet launch of Chicken in the Basket at Beds Growers.

27th June - Meppershall Summer Fair - hot, sunny and busy; just what the doctor ordered!

28th June - The Clubs Annual Garden Party, Lion President Keith confirmed his intention to continue in his post for another year and Tim Walker was inducted as a Club member.

11th July - We're used to sheltering from the rain at Arlesey Fun Day; we didn't need to this year. Well done Arlesey!

18th July - Letchworth Lions Fun Day, good weather, brisk trade and the "Mug" from Macmillan Cancer looked in on our Tombola Stall.

30th August - A wet day at Old Warden for our Chicken in a Basket game.

6th September - A glorious late Summer's afternoon welcomed everyone to Upper Caldecote's Village Show



17th May



3rd June



6th June



18th July



30th August

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Visitors most welcome



1978 -2015 = 37 Years supporting our community

Biggleswade Sandy Lions were Chartered as a Lions Club in October 1978. On the 11th October 2015 we all gathered with other Lions and friends at the Barns Hotel in Bedford to celebrate our 37th Charter Anniversary.

During the previous 12 months we had raised some £12,500, which was all spent on good causes, largely within our local community.

District Governor Meena Gupta presented Lion Roger Wolburn with a chevron to mark his 40 years service to Lions Clubs International.



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37 years old and still going strong

Club Diary

6th September - A glorious late Summer's afternoon welcomed everyone to Upper Caldecote's Village Show

16th September - Our District Governor visited us at a Club Meeting and presented Lion Peter Patmore with a service chevron to mark his 10 years service with the Lions and our Club President, Lion Keith with her Banner.

18th 19th 20th September - We ran the Main Gate at the Bedfordshire Steam & Country Fayre.

24th September - Macmillan Coffee Morning - raises over £200

11th October - We celebrate the 37th anniversary of the Club's 1978 Charter

17th October - On a grey chilly, but dry, day we ran our autumn bookstall at Biggleswade Market.

21st October - We present Ken Lynch with hearing equipment as part of our Deaf Awareness project



11th October



16th September



16th September



18th 19th 20th September



21st October



6th September

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Ken Lynch campaigns for the hard of hearing Biggleswade Sandy Lions and the British Legion heard his call.

Many people who suffer from being hard of hearing, attend meetings in premises where there is no "Hearing Loop" system. Hence they are unable to hear all that goes on & feel "left out".

Ken Lynch attends a lot of meetings in his role as a leading local volunteer and he is extremely aware of the number of local venues that do not have hearing loops to enable the hard of hearing participate fully in the meeting.

So when he learnt about "Roger Pen" a cutting-edge wireless microphone that enables people with hearing loss to hear and understand more speech in loud noise and over distance; he asked for help in getting one.



Pictured: L to R

Biggleswade Sandy Lions were pleased to purchase the speaker, as part of our Deaf Awareness project, & The British Legion purchased the microphone.

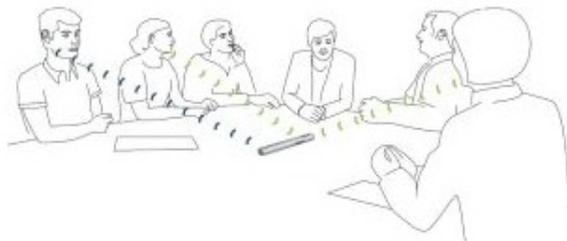
Mary Baker, Welfare Officer - Sandy Branch of the British Legion
Keith Lewis, Biggleswade Sandy Lions' Club President
Ken Lynch, Local Deaf Awareness Campaigner

Ken says this new device has completely changed his life, he can now attend meetings, hear everything that is being said and take an active part in the debate.

When to Use It

Challenging listening situations

- in loud noise
- over distance
- when there are several speakers.



<http://www.lionsdeafawareness.org.uk/>

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Biggleswade Sandy Lions 2015

Ordinary People Doing Amazing Things



A lot goes on in November, December is busier though!

Club Diary

7th November - We spent the day selling poppies for the British Legion in Biggleswade Market Square. The Lions collected £252 on the day towards a total for Biggleswade of £5,622

13th November - In recent year's we've had 6 local middle schools participating in Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Competition. This year, five declined because of other pressures; only Edward Peake Middle School took part. Friday 13th was the School Peace Poster Prize Giving, which coincided with Children in Need day and explains why everyone was dressed as if they were having a "sleep-in"

22nd November - The District Youth Celebration was held at Elstree's Allum Hall and we took two parties of youngsters with carers. You may not have noticed, but it appears to me that face painters prefer Tigers to Lions.

5th December - Father Christmas has already visited Langford Garden Centre, the Sleigh Runs and the Tin Shalkes have started and we had a full house for our "Strictly Come to Bigg Sandy's Dance"



22nd November



22nd November



7th November



5th December



13th November

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A November's afternoon at the District Youth Convention

Each year, generally in November, just after the District Youth Celebration has been held at the Allum Hall in Elstree, Lion Vijay's team gather to plan the following year's DYC. During the summer the 76 Clubs in Lions District 105A are requested to fill the 450 places for 12 to 18 year olds & carers at the party.

Biggleswade Sandy Lions booked two tables again this year.

The pictures tell you the rest of the story.



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Christmas Calendar

Sat 28th November	Langford Garden Centre	2-4pm Father Christmas
Sun 29th November	Langford Garden Centre	2-4pm Father Christmas
Thu 3rd December	Biggleswade 1	Sleigh Run
Sat 5th December	G & M Growers	Tin Shake
Sat 5th December	Langford Garden Centre	2-4pm Father Christmas
Sat 5th December	Christmas Dance	Good night out!
Sun 6th December	G & M Growers	Tin Shake
Sun 6th December	Langford Garden Centre	2-4pm Father Christmas
Mon 7th December	Clifton	Sleigh Run
Tues 8th December	Potton	Sleigh Run
Wed 9th December	Sandy 1	Sleigh Run
Thu 10th December	Langford 1	Sleigh Run
Sat 12th December	Tesco, Sandy	Tin Shake
Sat 12th December	Langford Garden Centre	2-4pm Father Christmas
Sun 13th December	Tesco, Sandy	Tin Shake
Sun 13th December	Langford Garden Centre	2-4pm Father Christmas
Mon 14th December	Biggleswade 2	Sleigh Run
Tue 15th December	Langford 2	Sleigh Run
Thu 17th December	Sandy 2	Sleigh Run
Fri 18th December	Asda, Biggleswade	Tin Shake
Sat 19th December	Asda, Biggleswade	Tin Shake
Sat 19th December	Langford Garden Centre	2-4pm Father Christmas
Sun 20th December	Sainsburys, Biggleswade	Tin Shake
Sun 20th December	Langford Garden Centre	2-4pm Father Christmas
Mon 21st December	Sainsburys, Biggleswade	Tin Shake
Mon 21st December	Henlow	Sleigh Run
Tues 22nd December	Clifton 2	Sleigh Run



Christmas 2015

Thank you for your support once again



The Parcel Story



Well that was Christmas 2015; the busiest time of the year for Biggleswade Sandy Lions!

Lots of pre-planning, then on the Saturday 28th November Father Christmas turned up at the Langford Garden Centre and things got busy.

Since then:

We held a most successful Dance on 5th December at the Weatherly Centre

We tempted you with our collecting buckets at G&M Growers, Sandy Tesco; Biggleswade Asda and Sainsburys and you were most generous.

Our Sleigh toured the streets of Biggleswade, Clifton, Henlow, Langford, Potton and Sandy, and our collectors knocked on all your doors as we passed by and again you were most generous.

We bought a mountain of food at Biggleswade Aldi transported it to Sutton Village Hall and packed 170 Christmas food parcels which were then distributed across our area. We also gave out 36 plants. Thank you to Sandy District Guiding Association for their donation towards the food parcels.

Our Santa Claus became a regular visitor to the Langford Garden Centre throughout December to say hello to those boys and girls who sought reassurance that he would pay them a call on Christmas Eve.

We decorated a Christmas tree kindly provided by Langford Garden Centre for the St Swithun's Sandy Christmas Tree festival.

We would like to thank everyone who helped us carry out this work; contributed to our collections; or gave us permission to stand outside their business to collect. The funds raised not only finance the Christmas food parcels that we distributed, but go a long way towards our 2016 programme of service to this community.

Rudolph and the sleigh have gone into hibernation and we thank Bedford Growers for their help with this.

Finally, we wish everyone a happy new year and we hope to see you all again in December 2016.



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